

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A method ~~and system~~ for automatically determining a configuration of an I/O connector panel is disclosed. The method ~~and system~~ comprises the steps of providing information about the capabilities of the connector card to a memory within the connector card, examining the information in the memory. The method ~~and system~~ further includes downloading at least one driver to a system coupled to the I/O connector panel based upon the examined information. ~~In a preferred embodiment, an EEROM is provided in the connector panel that contains details on connectors that are installed and the EEROM is easy to update. The I/O capabilities of a platform (as determined by an I/O panel or other hardware that contains some identification mechanism that defines the I/O capabilities) is within the connector card. This mechanism is then used to determine what software to "preload" into a system so that as new I/O devices are added in the field, the required software for these devices has already been preloaded. This is in contrast to conventional systems where either the software is loaded for all possible devices, or no software is loaded initially and then loaded as new I/O devices are attached.~~